

### IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original) A method to be performed by a data processing system comprising:  
providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution is requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among a plurality of workflow engines; and  
if a workflow is completed by a first workflow engine for an execution-requesting client, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client, else assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine.
2. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.
3. (Original) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.
4. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the explicit and delayed acknowledgement is performed by a certified messaging capability.
5. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.
6. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.
7. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver forming part of the workflow.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 4 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.
9. (Original) A method to be performed by a computer network comprising a plurality of clients and a plurality of workflow engines:  
providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution can be requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among the plurality of workflow engines; and  
determining whether a workflow has been completed by a first workflow engine on behalf of an execution-requesting client; and  
if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client;  
otherwise, assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine.
10. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.
11. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.
12. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
13. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.
14. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the workflow.

16. (Original) The method recited in claim 12 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.

17. (Original) A computer adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, the computer executing a computer program, the computer program operating the computer in a fault-tolerant manner and comprising the operations of:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;  
a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;  
determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and  
if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;  
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.

18. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

19. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

20. (Original) The computer recited in claim 19, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

21. (Original) The computer recited in claim 19 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer network comprising:
- a plurality of clients;
  - a plurality of workflow engines; and
  - at least one computer program, the computer program operating in a fault-tolerant manner and performing the operations of:
    - requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;
    - assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;
    - determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and
    - if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;
  - otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.
23. (Previously Presented) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.
24. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.
25. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.
26. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24 and further comprising:
- the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor, the processor adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions comprise:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and

if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29 and further comprising:  
the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

32. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having instructions for instructing a processor forming part of a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions, when accessed, result in a machine performing:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been completed by the first workflow engine; and

if so, sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine.

33. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

34. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

35. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

36. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34 and further comprising: the certified messaging capability sending an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.